REMARKS

Claim 23 was amended to include the limitation of claim 31, since the rejection of claim 31 was withdrawn and viewed by the Examiner as allowable during the prior appeal.

New claims 51-57 are embodied by FIG. 5 and the description thereof in the present patent application.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully believe that all pending claims and the entire application meet the acceptance criteria for allowance and therefore request favorable action. If the Examiner believes that anything further would be helpful to place the application in better condition for allowance, Applicants invites the Examiner to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Date: 06/11/2004

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